

Quarterly Progress Report

Quarterly Progress Report-July 2014 to September 2014

Project Title: 'Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio in South Asia' (SDIP)

Name of the Organisation: CUTS International

Supported by: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australian Government

Duration: 1st October, 2013- 30th September, 2016

1. Activities carried out by CUTS in the month of July, 2014

1.1 The first CUTS SDIP Annual Organisational Report was prepared in the month of July in compliance with the clauses mentioned in the MoU and Grant Agreement between CUTS and DFAT. The report can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/CUTS-SDIP_Annual_Organizational_Report-October2013-July2014.pdf

1.2 The modalities of agreements between CUTS and its nine strategic partners were in process in the month of July. CUTS advised and approved the activity plans of our nine strategic partners. The strategic partners were given full flexibility in designing their own activities under SDIP project. The respective activity plan served as a Terms of Reference in the MoU signed with the parties in contract. A synopsis of the partners' activities is listed in the CUTS SDIP Work Plan for the first phase.

1.3 During the same month SDIP team was in field conducting diagnostic study interviews with the stakeholders in the five project countries (Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan).

1.4 As part of the SDIP monitoring system, CUTS had a first round of discussion with IOD PARC on 29th July 2014. CUTS SDIP team shared the 'change pathway' relevant to its work under SDIP with IOD PARC with respect to the domains of change- civil society voice for change, reform and standards for basin wide water management; and collaborative structures between farmer organisations and service providers, agro-business, researchers and relevant public agencies in the Brahmaputra basin.

2. Activities carried out by CUTS in the month of August, 2014

2.1 CUTS completed the process of signing of MoUs with its nine strategic partners in the month of August. For more information about our strategic partners please click on the following link: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/Partners.htm>

2.2 Part of the month was spent in the preparation of the first SDIP Annual Dialogue which held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 21-22 August, 2014. Bipul Chatterjee, Veena Vidyadharan, Prithviraj Nath and Ashwini Swain represented CUTS in this dialogue. The goal of this dialogue was to have an informed and reflective discussion between SDIP partners on where and how change is taking place in the development space where the investment portfolio is engaged. CUTS prepared a poster for the partnership health review (Year 1) outlining its activities, highlights, outputs and lessons learnt. The poster can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/SDIP_Partnership_Review_\(Health-Check\)-Year-1.pdf](http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/SDIP_Partnership_Review_(Health-Check)-Year-1.pdf)

2.3 CUTS also attended the Annual Health Check-up meeting (Review of Partnership Progress) with Julie Mundy and Ryan Thew in Kathmandu on 23rd August, 2014.

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2.4 This month was also spent documenting the findings from the field surveys under diagnostic study conducted in the nine different locations throughout South Asia.

3. Activities carried out by CUTS and its Strategic Partners in the month of September, 2014

3.1 As suggested during the annual health check-up meeting CUTS refined its work plan for the 1st phase consolidating its core activities along with the activities of its nine strategic partners and shared with DFAT and IOD-PARC.

3.2 A training program on the topic 'Importance of water-management in agricultural production in the context of changing climate' was organized under NEFORD-CUTS International collaborative program on the 5th September, 2014 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ghazipur. The report can be accessed at: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/NEFORD_Activity01.pdf

3.3 NEFORD organized another training on 'Improved and Climate Resilient Technologies for Agriculture Production' on 14th September 2014 at the Amar Vani Viklang Sansthan, Tajapur, Mau. The report can be accessed at: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/NEFORD_Activity02.pdf

3.4 On 24th September, 2014 CUTS had a meeting with Claire Glendenning, Senior Program Manager, DFAT (Development). The objective of this meeting was to familiarise Claire with CUTS work and its activities under SDIP project. CUTS presented their work plan for the 1st phase and same was reviewed by Claire and updated as per her valuable suggestions. Following the meeting, CUTS updated its work plan for the first phase which can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/pdf/Work_Plan_Phase-1.pdf

4. Media articles

4.1 As part of the media outreach activities a number of media articles were written on food, water and energy issues by CUTS and NEFORD in popular media such as in The Assam Tribune, South Asia Monitor, Dainik Jagaran, Amar Ujala, *et al.* All the articles can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/SDIP/Media.htm>